

Night Historical Context Worksheet:

Website:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/animations/auschwitz_map/index_embed.shtml

Answer the following questions as you take a virtual tour of Auschwitz:

1. What year was Hitler appointed chancellor of Germany?
2. Who were the primary targets of Nazi hatred?
3. Who else were persecuted by the Nazis?
4. What was the first country the Germans invaded and what year did it happen?
5. What Polish town would become the concentration camp called Auschwitz?
6. How did Nazi controlled Germany first begin to rid their country of the Jewish people?
7. Once this plan no longer worked, what was the new plan to get rid of the Jews and what was it called?
8. What was the first effort to isolate and contain the Jewish people? What were the conditions of these places? What was the penalty for leaving these places?

9. When the Germans enacted their “Final Solution” what became the purpose for these places?
10. When did the Germans begin to mass murder the Jews? What simultaneous event did this occur with?
11. How were the Jews murdered at this point?
12. Why did the Germans need a more “humane” way of killing the Jewish people they captured?
13. Where were the extermination camps built and what were their names? What functions did they combine?
14. What was the largest and most infamous of the extermination camps?
15. How were the Jews and other prisoners transported to the extermination camps?
16. How was Auschwitz a unique concentration camp?
17. What message was installed in the steel gate at Auschwitz? How is this statement ironic and even cruel?

18. What was the most feared place in Auschwitz? What was the worst area of this place? Describe how these specific cells were used?
19. What more efficient way did the Germans find to mass murder the Jewish people and other prisoners of concentration camps?
20. How many inmates had to share one latrine at the time of greatest overcrowding in Auschwitz?
21. What problems did such overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions cause?
22. What was the purpose of the section of Auschwitz called “Kanada” and why was it called that?
23. What three things would be removed from the prisoners who died before they were cremated to be reused or sold?
24. At the height of genocide in Auschwitz, what is the largest number of prisoners the Germans were able to gas and incinerate in one day?
25. What would the German paradise perceived by Hitler and his followers be built with?
26. What was the slave labor camp “Buna” named after?
27. What was the purpose of the “platform selections”?
28. When was Auschwitz liberated and by whom?

29. What did Himmler have done before the liberating force arrived?

30. By the time it was liberated, how many people were killed in Auschwitz?